

## DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

**AMENDMENT DATE:** March 31, 2011  
**POSITION:** Neutral

**BILL NUMBER:** SB 361  
**AUTHOR:** T. Berryhill

### **BILL SUMMARY:** School Funding: Minimum Schoolday

This bill would, from July 1, 2012 to July 1, 2017, extend the sunset on the provisions authorizing the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) to provide general-purpose revenue limit and Regional Occupational Centers/Programs (ROC/P) funding for the Center for Advanced Research and Technology (CART).

### **FISCAL SUMMARY**

This bill would impose no additional Proposition 98 General Fund costs to the state. Instead, the language currently contained in this bill would allow the CART program to continue to receive the same level of general-purpose funding and ROC/P funding that the CART is currently receiving.

### **COMMENTS**

The Department of Finance is neutral on this bill for the following reasons:

- This bill would impose no additional costs to the state. Instead, the language currently contained in this bill would allow the CART program to continue to receive the same level of general-purpose funding and ROC/P funding that the CART is currently receiving.
- We would note that the CART has received awards for the innovative curriculum and educational opportunities that it provides for its students. The CART is a unique program that has excelled in providing quality technological education and career opportunities for students through its partnerships with businesses, private and public organizations, and higher education institutions.

Chapter 762 of the Statutes of 2008 (AB 2246) established a minimum day of 180 minutes for the CART and defined the funding formula to be used by the Superintendent in calculating CART's funding amount for the 2008-09 fiscal year through the 2011-12 fiscal year, outside of charter law. Additionally, AB 2246 allowed the CART to receive general-purpose funding calculated pursuant to charter school provisions, as specified. The provisions of AB 2246 would otherwise sunset July 1, 2012. Prior to 2006, the CART received general-purpose and ROC/P funding as if it was a traditional charter school. However, when reviewed by auditors as annually required by the K-12 Audit Guide, it was determined that the CART was ineligible for traditional general-purpose and ROC/P funding due to its joint structure with Clovis and Fresno Unified school districts. If these provisions were to sunset, the CART would be ineligible to receive general-purpose and ROC/P funding.

The CART was established in April of 1997 through a joint powers agreement (JPA) between Clovis Unified School District and Fresno Unified School District (USD). CART's mission is to educate high school students through a project-based environment that is academically rigorous, and facilitated through a business-based instructional model. The CART, currently authorized as a charter school by Clovis USD, is a joint technical center for high school students of the Clovis USD and Fresno USD. Participating pupils

Analyst/Principal (0341) T. Todd	Date	Program Budget Manager Nick Schweizer	Date
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Department Deputy Director	Date
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Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved _____
			Position Disapproved _____

<b>BILL ANALYSIS</b>	Form DF-43 (Rev 03/95 Buff)
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**BILL ANALYSIS/ENROLLED BILL REPORT--(CONTINUED)****Form DF-43****AUTHOR****AMENDMENT DATE****BILL NUMBER**

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receive 50 percent of instruction at the CART and the remaining 50 percent at their regular high school in either Clovis USD or Fresno USD. CART's agreement with the districts requires the charter school to return all average daily attendance (ADA) funding for participating pupils to the appropriate district, and in return, the districts provide all funding and staffing for CART's operations. The CART has expressed that without its charter based ADA funding it would not be able to operate and would have to close.

Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)							
	LA	(Dollars in Thousands)							
	CO	PROP							Fund
	RV	98	FC	2010-2011	FC	2011-2012	FC	2012-2013	Code
6110/Dept of Educ	LA	Yes		-----	See Fiscal Summary	-----			0001